voltage of the comparator 60. The plus terminal input voltage Vref [V] of the error amplifier circuit 12 in the constant current generation circuit 15 is applied to the plus terminal of the comparator 60, while the minus terminal input voltage Va [V] of the error amplifier circuit 12 is applied to the minus terminal of the comparator 60.--.

A2

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-9 as follows:

A3

1. (Amended) An LED drive circuit comprising: a driver having a constant current circuit for driving a plurality of LEDs; and at least one switch connected to a respective LED for periodically turning on and off a respective LED at certain time intervals.

SUB A1

2. (Amended) An LED drive circuit according to claim 1; wherein the frequency of turning on and off respective LED is 5 Hz or higher.

3. (Amended) An LED drive circuit according to claim 1; wherein the value of the constant current produced by the constant current circuit for driving the LEDs is in the range of about 5 to 30 mA.

4. (Amended) An LED drive circuit according to claim 1; further comprising a switch control circuit for controlling the at least one switch in response to an external signal to vary an on/off cycle time of the respective LED.

5. (Amended) An LED drive circuit according to claim 1; wherein the at least one switch comprises a plurality of switches each connected to a respective LED; and further comprising a switch control circuit for controlling the switches in response to an external signal to select at least one LED to be turned on and off.

6. (Amended) An LED drive circuit according to claim 1; wherein the constant current circuit has an external terminal for receiving a signal for setting the constant current value for driving the LEDs.

7. (Amended) An LED drive circuit according to claim 1; wherein the value of the constant current produced by the constant current circuit varies in accordance with temperature.

8. (Amended) An LED drive circuit comprising: a driver circuit having a boosting circuit for boosting a power source voltage and outputting a boosted voltage, and a constant current circuit for producing a constant current for

driving an LED; and a control circuit for controlling the boosting circuit to increase the boosted voltage when the constant current is smaller than a predetermined value, and for reducing the boosted voltage when the constant current has the predetermined value.

9. (Amended) An LED drive circuit comprising: driving means for driving at least two LEDs by producing a constant current and a boosted voltage; and means for increasing the boosted voltage when the constant current is smaller than a predetermined value, for reducing the boosted voltage when the constant current has the predetermined value, and for periodically turning on and off at least one of the LEDs at certain time intervals.

Kindly add the following new claims 10-23:

10. An LED circuit comprising: a plurality of LEDs; a constant current generating circuit for generating a constant current for driving the plurality of LEDs; and at least one switch connected between the current generating circuit and a respective LED for causing the respective LED to blink at a rate higher than a visual perception rate.

11. An LED circuit according to claim 10; wherein the at least one switch comprises a plurality of switches each connected between the current generating circuit and a

respective LED for causing the LEDs to blink at a rate higher than the visual perception rate.

12. An LED circuit according to claim 11; wherein a frequency of blinking of the LEDs is 5 Hz or higher.

13. An LED circuit according to claim 11; wherein the value of the constant current generated by the constant current generating circuit for driving the LEDs is in the range of about 5 to 30 mA.

14. An LED circuit according to claim 11; further comprising a switch control circuit for controlling the switches in response to an external signal to vary a blinking rate of the LEDs.

15. An LED circuit according to claim 11; wherein the constant current generating circuit has an external terminal for receiving a signal for setting the constant current value for driving the LEDs.

16. An LED circuit according to claim 11; wherein the value of the constant current produced by the constant current generating circuit varies in accordance with temperature.

17. An LED circuit according to claim 11; further comprising a boosting circuit for boosting a power supply voltage used for driving the LEDs when the constant current falls below a predetermined value.

18. An LED circuit according to claim 10; wherein a frequency of blinking of the respective LED is 5 Hz or higher.

19. An LED circuit according to claim 10; wherein the value of the constant current generated by the constant current generating circuit for driving the LEDs is in the range of about 5 to 30 mA.

20. An LED circuit according to claim 10; further comprising a switch control circuit for controlling the switch in response to an external signal to vary a blinking rate of the respective LED.

21. An LED circuit according to claim 10; wherein the constant current generating circuit has an external terminal for receiving a signal for setting the constant current for driving the LEDs.

22. An LED circuit according to claim 10; wherein the value of the constant current generated by the constant current generating circuit varies in accordance with temperature.